

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid, comprising:
preparing a liquid gel concentrate comprised of at least one hydratable polymer which yields viscosity upon hydration and an aqueous formate solution; and
diluting the concentrate with water to hydrate the hydratable polymer.
2. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous formate solution of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a formate selected from the group consisting of potassium formate, sodium formate and cesium formate.
3. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1, wherein the hydratable polymer of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a polysaccharide.
4. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 3, wherein the hydratable polymer of the liquid gel concentrate is selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar, depolymerized hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethyl guar and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar.
5. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1 wherein the liquid gel concentrate further comprises an inhibitor for inhibiting the hydration of the hydratable polymer.
6. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 5 wherein the inhibitor of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a boron compound.
7. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 5 wherein the inhibitor of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a pH adjusting compound.

8. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 7 wherein the pH adjusting compound comprises sodium hydroxide.
9. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1 wherein the liquid gel concentrate further comprises at least one suspending agent for suspending the hydratable polymer in the liquid gel concentrate.
10. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 9 wherein the suspending agent of the liquid gel concentrate is selected from the group consisting of succinoglucan biopolymer and welan gum.
11. A liquid gel concentrate composition, comprising:
an aqueous formate solution and at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer.
12. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11 wherein the formate solution comprises a formate selected from the group consisting of potassium formate, sodium formate and cesium formate.
13. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the formate solution comprises water.
14. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the hydratable polymer comprises a polysaccharide.
15. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 14, wherein the hydratable polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar, depolymerized hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethyl guar and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar.
16. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the liquid gel concentrate further comprises an inhibitor for inhibiting the hydration of the hydratable polymer.

17. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 16, wherein the inhibitor of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a boron compound.
18. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 16, wherein the inhibitor of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a pH adjusting compound.
19. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 18, wherein the pH adjusting compound comprises sodium hydroxide.
20. A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the liquid gel concentrate further comprises a suspending agent for suspending the hydratable polymer in the liquid gel concentrate.
21. A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 20 wherein the suspending agent of the liquid gel concentrate is selected from the group consisting of succinoglucan biopolymer and welan gum.